



October 24, 2007

Ann O'Fallon
Chair,
Association of State Refugee
Health Coordinators
Refugee Health Coordinator
Minnesota Department of Health
Freeman Office Building
P.O. Box 64975
St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Carrie Bridges
Co-Chair
Association of State Refugee
Health Coordinators
Refugee Health Coordinator
Rhode Island Department of Health
3 Capitol Hill, Room 407
Providence, RI 02908

Carol Pozsik
Executive Director
National Tuberculosis Controllers
Association
2452 Spring Road, SE
Smyrna, GA 30080

Dear Ms. O'Fallon, Ms. Bridges, and Ms. Pozsik:

The purpose of this letter is to remind the state and local health departments of the reporting mechanisms for Burmese refugees evaluated for tuberculosis after arrival to the United States. The current procedures are found on the enclosed document and are also on the DGMQ website at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/refugee/burmese/index.htm>. Please distribute this information for the members of your organizations.

As you know, the United States recently resettled approximately 14,000 Burmese refugees from the Mae La camp near Mae Sot, Thailand. These refugees were screened according to the 2007 Technical Instructions for Tuberculosis Screening and Treatment (TB TI). The 2007 TB TI can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dq/panel_2007.htm.

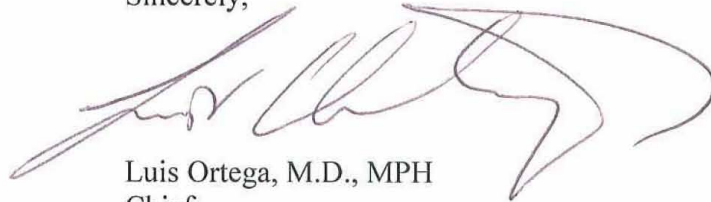
Because the Burmese refugees from the Mae La camp are the first population to be screened according to the 2007 TB TI, the results of domestic evaluations are very important for oversight of this program. Moreover, it is important that DTBE and DGMQ learn in a timely manner about any Burmese refugees diagnosed with tuberculosis disease after arrival to the United States.

We greatly appreciate your previous reporting of evaluations of Hmong and Burmese refugees. The results of evaluations of Burmese refugees (i.e., the Burmese TB Follow-up Worksheet) need to be reported only for those who had a Class B1 TB classification.

If you have any questions about the domestic evaluation of Burmese refugees or the 2007 TB TI, please contact Dr. Drew Posey (404-639-4440; dposey@cdc.gov).

Thank you for your assistance in this important public health matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Luis Ortega', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Luis Ortega, M.D., MPH
Chief

Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Health Branch
Division of Global Migration and Quarantine
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Enclosure

cc:

Marta Brenden, ORR, ACF, DHHS
Kashef Ijaz, DTBE, NCHHSTP, CDC
Kelly Gauger, PRM, DOS